

# SANCTUARY

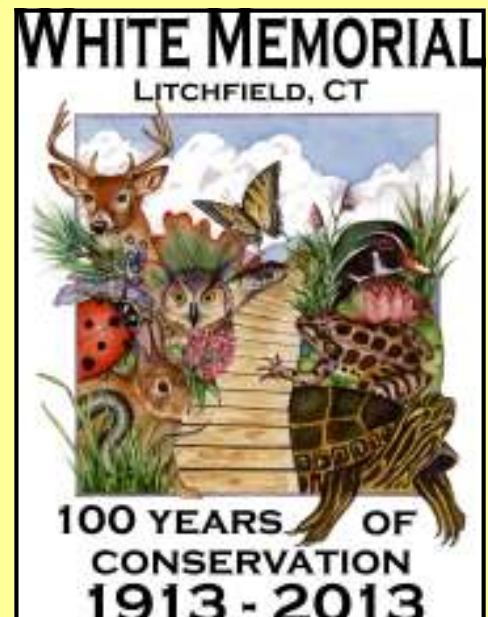
Newsletter of the  
White Memorial  
Conservation Center  
Vol. XXXI No. 2  
Spring 2013

## Museum Hours:

Monday - Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Sunday 12 p.m. - 5 p.m.

## For Information

Phone: 860-567-0857  
E-Mail: [info@whitememorialcc.org](mailto:info@whitememorialcc.org)  
Website: [www.whitememorialcc.org](http://www.whitememorialcc.org)



*Be a part of the Blitz! Artist: Kim Burris*

## Join the BioBlitz, May 31 - June 1, 2013 at White Memorial! by James Fischer, WMCC Director of Research

Have you ever wondered how many animals live in your backyard? Think about how many bird species come to your bird feeder throughout the year. Do you count one kind of bird or several? Let's shift our attention to the plants? Take a closer look at your landscaping, including the lawn and the weeds in the ditch, and try to count the number of plant species you see? Do you see one kind of plant or is it many? If you say that you can count several kinds of birds and plants in your yard, this illustrates the diversity of organisms that live in your backyard. Let's think about what kind of relationship you have with these plants and animals. If you plant a vegetable garden then these plants provide food. If you plant a flower garden or set up a bird feeder then you get enjoyment from the beauty these plants and animals bring to your life. The birds also provide you with other benefits that you may observe occasionally; they eat insects, worms, and plant seeds. This controls the number of potential pests but the birds also fertilize your yard every time the deposit feces in your yard. These animals and plants benefit you, but think about our journey so far, I've mentioned other animals and plants in the last few sentences. Sometimes you encounter these things when you least expect, like finding earthworms under a rock. You will also discover them when you look for them specifically, for example digging up worms in the garden so that

you have bait for your next fishing trip.

Let's continue with asking those same questions like before. How many worm species live in your yard?



Olivia Riccio with Garter Snake  
Photo credit: James Fischer

Don't worry if you can't answer this question because most of us are not able, as well. I think it is safe to say that if you counted several bird and plant species, then you would be able to count several worm species. So how do we determine how many of any kind of species there are any where in the world. It requires a person who specializes in knowing how to differentiate between

the species, they are referred to as taxonomists. Every taxonomist has their specialty. Some focus on a specific group of insects that can be found living around the world, while others focus on the plants that inhabit a region like the state of Connecticut.

White Memorial's Research Program explores several topics; probably the most important is discovering how many species live on the property! We encourage taxonomists to explore our property to tally the species and to discover species that have never been described before. This brings us to our latest project! We want to bring as many taxonomists to White Memorial as we can recruit and give them 24 hours to count as many species as possible. We think White Memorial is a great place for this venture, because there are many different habitats found together in one place. We are calling this event a *BioBlitz*, a biological blitz to count as many species as we can in 24 hours. Imagine how many groups of living organisms could be counted and think about how many different taxonomists would need to be invited. The more taxonomists we have the more species we count!

There are two reasons why a BioBlitz is an important event. The first and foremost is that people, like yourself, can see the work it requires to tally ~4000 species looks like firsthand.

*(Continued on page 2)*

(cont'd. from page 1)

Each taxonomist has their own methods for encountering their species. Taxonomists who study insects, called entomologists, use lights at night to attract insects or use large hoop nets to sweep insects they see flying by during the day. Entomologists then sort through all the insects they collect on trays and the trays are filled with all kinds of insects from moths to grasshoppers to beetles to ants. The entomologists examine body parts, for example the number of spikes on the first leg for one group, by looking through microscopes. They pull out their manuals and references, some of which were written by their teachers or even by themselves, to determine which species they have collected. Specimens are then preserved and labeled, then stored at specialized libraries for use in future research. Can you imagine yourself sitting next to a scientist, who asks you to sort through a tray of moths? They tell you to start removing all of the white moths, then the brown moths...will it ever end? The entomologist would then show you why the first moth you drew from the tray was a different species from the next two moths that you draw. Then they tell you to look for the orange moths... will it ever end?

What happens next is even more important. Your conversation with the

entomologist turns to why the species are important. Some of the species pollinate plants that produce food; others kill important trees, while many species are eaten by the birds, mammals, and snakes. *You learn why the earth is extraordinary.* You learn why these organisms and ecosystems are important to sustaining your life, community, and all life. You learn that to insure that these organisms and ecosystems persist for several human generations; it requires experts to explore the planet and people to recognize their contributions as being important. You will learn that you have a part to play in conserving the earth and the resources it provides.

The second reason for conducting a BioBlitz is that it provides an opportunity for the scientists to collect more information about the place they are studying and the organisms that inhabit it. This species inventory is useful for making future decisions. It will establish a baseline to which we can observe how the site will change from this point into the future. Monitoring the site shows scientists what forces are changing the site. There are so many questions that could be explored in the future but it must start with a thorough inventory.

There are several things that the future of our planet's natural resources

relies upon. The most important of which are people who care about it and explore it. *The BioBlitz is looking to inspire a few good people.* We want you! We hope you participate so that you can see how you can explore the earth. Whether it is in the forest, fields, streams, or the oceans, we need more people to explore it and appreciate it. I certainly can not think of a greater opportunity for a unique adventure in life. Traveling the world and discovering all of the life that inhabits earth. Sharing your adventures with people you meet and who want to hear your experiences. Advising others who need to make informed decisions about conserving these resources for future generations. The most wonderful thing about this adventure is that this opportunity needs as many people as we can get, no matter what your age. You simply need to take the first step and go outside, the world is waiting and we all need you.

To learn more about the BioBlitz or to sign up as a volunteer for this thrilling event please log onto our website:

<http://whitememorialbioblitz.blogspot.com/>



## 23rd Annual Museum Sleep-In

April 26 - 27, 2013 5:00 p.m. to 12:00 noon

(For grades 4 - 6)

**Thunder Tubes + Bean Bag Bears**

**Lady Bug Hats + Pond Nets**

**Dissect an Owl Pellet + Explore Ongley Pond + Meet Some Live Owls**

**Make a New Friend + Bring a Friend**

**Take a Walk in the Night**

**Challenge Yourself - Bring a "Trash Free" Bag**

**Sleep in the Museum Among the Exhibits**

**Enjoy a Campfire with Stories and Song + Do a Day Hike and Scavenger Hunt**

**Learn About Severe Weather!**

Cost: \$55/member - \$75/non-member

**DON'T DELAY!** This program is limited to 25 participants.

**Registration must be received by April 19**

**First come, first served.**

Confirmation will be sent along with a checklist of things to bring.

Fee covers all workshop materials, snacks, and breakfast.

All activities occur rain or shine.

For more information, please call us at 860-567-0857 or visit us at [www.whitememorialcc.org](http://www.whitememorialcc.org).

*This program is conducted by the Conservation Center's Education and Activities Committee.*

## Make a Difference

In her continuing series, **Zoë Greenwood** helps you find small ways to help the environment.

What you might know is that I started a new job in October of last year. It's my dream job, really, one that I have worked long and hard to achieve. It's *my* job of a lifetime. What every dream has, though, is a downside...sometimes it is waking up; sometimes what you think you want is not really what you want at all; sometimes it is just some unpleasant part of the job you have. A former boss of mine, the late Betsy Cooley, used to say that every job has dishwashing. She was correct; of course, there is often a downside to even the *best* of experiences.

All of this brings me to my current topic of making a difference. My new job is director of a small public library. I love it, or at least most of it, every day. What I *don't* love is throwing things away, but you are already quite aware of *that* aspect of my personality. Sometimes, though, there are things that you need to get rid of, even if it's just because you need to get more stuff, newer stuff. Patrons demand the newest, shiniest best sellers right along with the old favorites. Books are wonderful things, they are nice to look at, feel good in your hands and take you places that you never thought you'd go. But, after a lot of hands have touched the same book again and again, the book begins to get

old. Now, I don't mean old in the collectors, used book dealer sort of way. I mean, just your regular run of the mill everyday book old. What on earth do you do with them? Libraries have hundreds, even thousands of books to get rid of on a yearly basis - good books, just a little old or hardly ever taken out anymore. Sure, they could have a book sale to make more space; those can sometimes be quite profitable. They can have a free give away stack of books - that's another good way to get rid of books. But, even after all of the valiant efforts, there are bound to be some leftover books. What on earth do you do with those? Fewer and fewer organizations are taking them; local thrift shops are often overrun with books. Some Salvation Army and Goodwill stores might take them, but not always. You can't just throw them away...some parts are recyclable. Even that is very labor intensive.

Enter Better World Books. [www.betterworldbooks.com](http://www.betterworldbooks.com) The cold and rainy day that a patron came into the library and told me about Better World Books is right up there with a visit from someone you haven't seen in a l-o-n-g time. It's right up there with birthday cake and a new pair of earrings. From

their website: "*Better World Books uses the power of business to change the world. We collect and sell books online to donate books and fund literacy initiatives worldwide. With more than 8 million new and used titles in stock, we're a self-sustaining, triple-bottom-line company that creates social, economic and environmental value for all our stakeholders.*" Pretty nifty, if you ask me. A place that will take used books and donate them to literacy programs all around the world. It doesn't get much better than that. Not only do they collect used books, they also sell them. You will find lots of nearly new and even some new books for a fraction of the cost. They have textbooks; children's books; ebooks; games; mysteries; best sellers; cd's and on and on, seemingly with no end. Many of these books are books that might have ended up in a landfill somewhere. When you are looking for a book to buy, start there. It is just one more way that you can....

*make a difference.*



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: NICOLE MORIN

Story and Photo by Gerri Griswold

Snakes and snails and sugar and spice: Nicole Morin is that perfect combination of tom boy and fine young lady. This extraordinary young woman, a native of Plymouth, CT is well on her way towards making her own mark in conservation having recently received the \$11,000 renewable Dean's Scholarship from Paul Smith's College where she will enroll as a freshman this fall with a major in conservation law enforcement. After two years she will become a certified arborist. "I just like to climb trees!"

Morin's life is a joyful contrast of blue jeans and ball gowns. She was only ten years old when she entered her first beauty pageant where she placed in the top ten out of 200 contestants. In 2007 she was flown to Anaheim, California to compete in the National All American Miss Pageant placing once again in the top ten. Morin is currently a student at Wamogo Regional High School. In her freshman year for the first few weeks of school "I'd walk into class in four inch heels and a nice blazer. People wondered what I was doing in the program! My Mom calls me Han-

na Montana!" Although she studies natural resources and forestry management her guilty pleasure is "advanced welding".

Morin has been extremely active in WMCC Research Director James Fischer's programs having organized our slide collection and collected Purple Loosetrite beetles for invasive species control. She has participated in crayfish studies and her personal favorite: the salamander coverboard project. She has been indispensable to the Center when it comes to animal care. "If I had to choose one animal besides wolves it would have to be Corny the Corn Snake. I love reptiles!"

Upon completion of college Nicole hopes to travel the United States working as an EPA officer. As a Miss Connecticut contestant her legacy is to be remembered as "Connecticut's first Green Queen!" Her platform is *Conservation for Our Nation: Building a Land Ethic*. "I'd like to follow in Aldo Leopold's footsteps in creating a more sustainable earth." We bet even the incomparable Aldo Leopold could not have done that in heels!

YOU GO NICOLE!



*Snake Charmer! Nicole Morin & Corny*

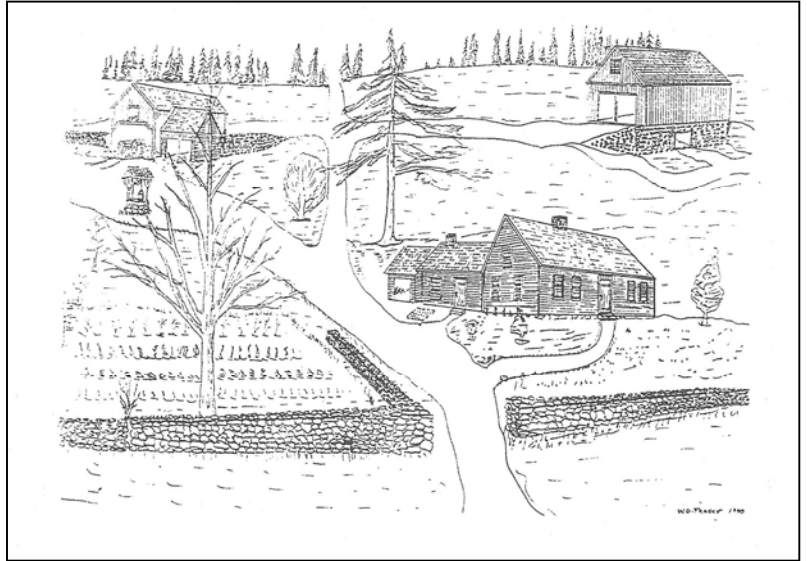
## BEFORE THE WHITES - JOHN MARSH HOMESTEAD

BY LEE SWIFT, ASSISTANT CURATOR OF ARCHIVES AND LIBRARY, LITCHFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

In 1744 a north-south highway in Litchfield was laid out past "John Marsh's dwelling house". Today, that highway is Alain White Road and on the west side of the road, south of #243, the foundations of his house and barns are still visible. This John Marsh was the son of John Marsh who, in May 1715, came from Hartford and was the first white man to explore these "western lands". As a proprietor, the senior John Marsh owned 2 rights/shares in the town and his lands included over 250 acres bordering on the east side of Bantam Lake.

The house was built by John, Jr. and owned by 5 generations of Marshes: John Jr.; John 3<sup>rd</sup>; Daniel; Andrew W.; Benjamin and his sister Mary Jane – until the 100 acre farm was purchased in 1907 by Charles Castle, who sold it to Alain C. White in 1916.

Based on extensive research and knowledge of the local area, the late Walter D. France of Morris made the sketch to the right to depict what the homestead might have looked like before the buildings were torn down.



*The John Marsh Homestead Picture credit: Morris Historical Society*

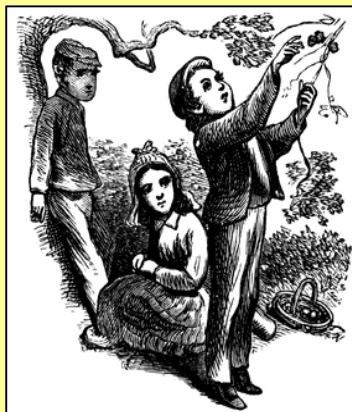
## SEHERR-THOSS FOUNDATION GIVES FUNDS FOR DETECTING EMERALD ASH BORER BY JAMES FISCHER, WMCC DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH

We appreciate the generosity of the Seherr-Thoss Foundation for monies that will be used for detecting the Emerald Ash Borer on the property. The funds will be used to purchase materials for building purple prism traps designed for detecting EAB. This invasive insect was first detected in the state in July 2012 and has been since found in a total of 5 towns south of and including Waterbury. EAB kills ash trees, an ecologically and economically important tree. To date, the Great Lakes region has lost millions of trees and dollars since EAB was initially detected in the Detroit, MI vicinity in 2002. EAB is primarily spread by moving infested firewood and landscape plants. It will not be long before EAB will make its way to the property. Therefore we remain vigilant by including this technique into our EAB Detection Program, which includes the use of *Cerceris* Wasps as a biosurveillance tool, strategically girdled ash trees, and the

purple prism traps the state deploys. All of these programs require a great deal of volunteer support with field work. If you are interested in helping, please contact James Fischer ([james@whitememorialcc.org](mailto:james@whitememorialcc.org)).



**Emerald Ash Borer**, Photo credit: Wisconsin's EAB Information Source



## Children's Summer Programs 2013

Give your child the gift of nature this summer at White Memorial!

**Wee Discoverers** weekly story hour series for 4 and 5 year-olds featuring stories, songs, and crafts.

**Nature Adventurers** for children entering 1st and 2nd grades. Focus is on the interdependence of living things, the variety in the natural world, and the importance of recycling to minimize our impact on the earth. Hands-on discoveries, games, books, songs, and crafts are offered.

**Natural History Explorers** for children entering grades 3 through 9 are more in-depth, all day field discovery programs conducted on and off White Memorial property.

Tentative dates for this year run from June 24 through August 9.  
Please call the Museum at 860-567-0857 to request a registration form  
or print one from our website.

[www.whitememorialcc.org](http://www.whitememorialcc.org)

# Songbird Nest Box Program Needs Volunteer Monitors

By James Fischer, WMCC Director of Research

All wildlife populations are regulated by many things in their habitat. One factor that limits cavity nesting songbirds is the availability of appropriate nest sites. Certain species like woodpeckers create their own nest site by excavating wood with their chisel like beaks. However, there are several cavity nesting birds that do not create their own cavities but use ones that are already present in their habitat. Eastern Bluebirds and Tree Swallows are a couple species that require preexisting cavities before they can reproduce. Eastern Bluebirds experienced severe declines in Connecticut starting over 40 years ago. This was due in large part to ecological changes that succeeded open fields to forests and due to a lack of nest sites. A statewide program was coordinated by CT DEEP, Wildlife Division to restore Eastern Bluebird populations by installing nest boxes throughout the state. White Memorial has been part of this initiative since its inception by installing nest boxes throughout the property since approximately 1989. Since then the Bluebird population has responded to this conservation strategy quite well by steadily increasing in abundance (Figure 1). This year starts a new phase of White Memorial's Songbird Nest Box Program. Volunteers are needed to monitor 75 nest boxes success and productivity.

The Songbird Nest Box Program has proven a success for helping to restore Eastern Bluebirds to WMF but it only helps

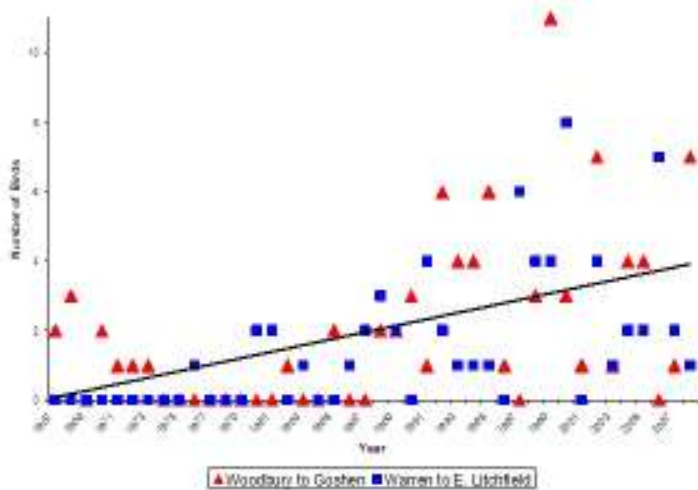


Figure 1: Eastern Bluebirds Counted on USGS Breeding Bird Survey Routes that Traverse WMF (1967 - 2008), Trend-line Added.

the birds a little. Eastern Bluebirds are not consistently successful at fledging young every year. Connecticut is found in the more northern portion of Eastern Bluebird distribution and southern populations are more abundant than northern populations (Figure 2). This suggests that Eastern Bluebirds are better adapted to a slightly warmer climate. Yet, Connecticut offers enough habitats to make it worth a Bluebird's effort to still attempt to reproduce because some birds are successful at producing young even though some seasons do not offer the best conditions. Bluebirds migrate as early as they can from winter habitats (April) so that they can locate a nest site, reproduce, incubate eggs, and raise young. This gives the young enough time to develop so they are physically capable of migrating to warmer

climates by the next winter. Connecticut's breeding Bluebird population is vulnerable to early spring weather conditions that could kill young birds due to exposure. Late frosts, extended cold rain, and freezing temperatures contribute to young birds dying. The nest boxes are designed to meet the needs of the birds while they need a nest site by providing as dry a microhabitat and protects the birds from predators and non-native species. The habitat around each nest box is managed by mowing and controlling the vegetation so that Bluebirds can find enough food for their chicks.

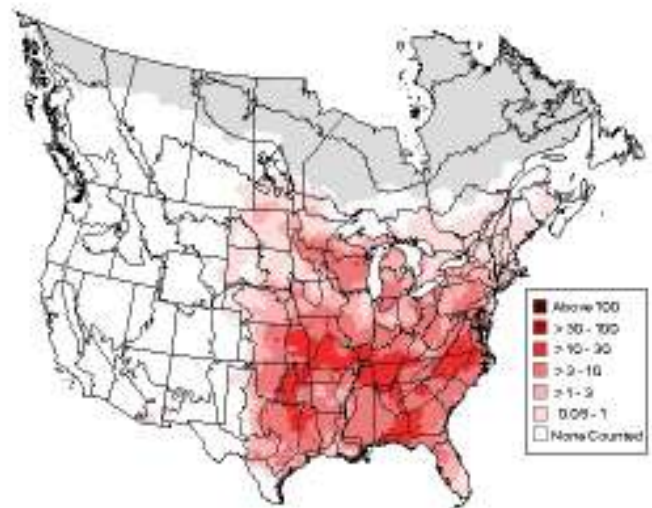


Figure 2: Eastern Bluebird Summer Distribution Map from USGS Breeding Bird Survey (2006 - 2010). Sauer, J. R., J. E. Hines, J. E. Fallon, K. L. Pardieck, D. J. Ziolkowski, Jr., and W. A. Link. 2011. *The North American Breeding Bird Survey, Results and Analysis 1966 - 2010. Version 12.07.2011 USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, MD.*

The boxes must be visited to collect data and to assess how the box is functioning. We have designed a program that provides the volunteers with the option of deciding how much time they can commit to the program. Each nest box must be visited at least twice a year but more frequent visits allow us to learn more about the population. If you have only a little bit of time then you can meet the minimum requirements, but if you have more time to commit then the program will benefit. There are several important things to learn about nest boxes and the birds that use them prior to volunteering with the program. Therefore, we require that if someone wishes to volunteer their time, they must attend a training session offered by WMCC Staff.



**Volunteer training will occur on Saturday, March 23, 2013, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the A. B. Ceder Classroom. Please bring a lunch, paper, and pencil. Dress for the weather.!**

# Spring Calendar of Events

For more information on any of our programs, please call us at 860-567-0857

## APRIL

**6 What to Do Until the Rehabber Arrives**  
CT DEEP licensed wildlife rehabilitator Lois Melaragno tells you what you need to know when you find distressed wildlife.  
2:00 P.M., A. B. Ceder Room

**6 Woodcock Cocktail Party with Gerri Griswold**  
See page 7 for details.



**13, 20, 27 Bird Language Club with Andy Dobos & Deneen Bernier**  
See page 7 for details.



**13 Soup's On! A Fun Evening to Benefit Our Braille Trail**  
See page 7 for details.



**16 - 19 April Vacation Programs**  
Call the Museum in mid-March for details!

**19 Star Party!**  
Astronomy program with star gazing to follow (weather permitting). 7:00 P.M., A. B. Ceder Room.

**20 - 26 Museum Kids Free Week**  
In Memory of Louise W. Willson\*

**20 Exploring Catlin Woods with WZBG's Dale Jones and Gerri Griswold**  
10:00 A.M., Meet in front of the A. B. Ceder Room.

**26/27 23rd Annual Museum Sleep-In**  
See page 2 for details.

**27 Stinkology! with Peter and Barb Rzasa**  
See page 7 for details.



**28 Fun Art for Kids with Betsy Rogers-Knox**  
See page 7 for details.

## MAY

**4 Iceland's Natural Warriors: Volcanoes with Tom Alena**  
See page 7 for details.

**11 Animal Poetry by the Fire with Gerri Griswold**  
See page 7 for details.



**11 - 17 Museum Kids Free Week**  
Courtesy of Tara and Arthur Diedrick \*

**17 WMCC Annual Meeting 3:30 P.M.**

**17 Star Party!**  
Astronomy program with star gazing to follow (weather permitting). 7:30 P.M., A. B. Ceder Room

**18 Community Education Day**  
10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.  
Free admission to the Museum!  
See page 7 for details!

**25 - 31 Museum Kids Free Week**  
Honoring Helen Ryan Donnelly \*

**25 Rodents Rule! with Teralyn LaChance from The Zoo in Forest Park**  
See page 7 for details.



**27 Memorial Day...Museum Closed**

**31 / June 1 BIOBLITZ!!!!**  
This 24 hour event tallies every species inhabiting our site!  
Log onto our special website for details!  
<http://whitememorialbioblitz.blogspot.com/>

## JUNE

**8 - 14 Museum Kids Free Week**  
In Memory of Louise W. Willson\*

**8 Exploring Camp Columbia with Lee Swift and Marlow Shami**  
11:00 A.M., A. B. Ceder Room

**9 Litchfield Hills Road Race**  
Museum Closed



**15 Breeding Bird Walk with Litchfield Hills Audubon President Fran Zygmunt**  
7:00 A.M., Meet at the A. B. Ceder Room.

**22 Boat Parade and High Tea on Chickadee Bridge!**  
See page 7 for details.



**28 Star Party!**  
Astronomy program with star gazing to follow (weather permitting). 8:00 P.M., A. B. Ceder Room



**29 Celebration for the Bats & Birthday Party for Mr. Bat!**  
Join Gerri Griswold for a lecture, cupcakes, and music by Nancy Tucker, honoring our planet's most extraordinary animal! Meet the CT DEEP's amBATssador, Mr. Bat and celebrate his 20th birthday!  
Lecture: 6:00 P.M., A. B. Ceder Room  
Music: 7:00 P.M. Activity Shed



**29 - July 5 Museum Kids Free Week**  
In Memory of Louise W. Willson\*

Have you signed up for our weekly email newsletter The Habitattler?  
Learn about upcoming programs.  
Check out our most recent wildlife observations.  
Feast your eyes on beautiful photographs taken by Conservation Center Staff and YOU!

[info@whitememorialcc.org](mailto:info@whitememorialcc.org)



I had always planned to make a large painting of the early spring, when the first leaves are at the bottom of the trees, and they seem to float in space in a wonderful way. But the arrival of spring can't be done in one picture.

David Hockney



\* Free admission to Children ages 12 and under when accompanied by an adult.

# SPRING 2013 WORKSHOPS REGISTRATION FORM



**April 6 Woodcock Cocktail Party**  
**6:00 P.M., A. B. Ceder Room , LIMITED TO 20 GUESTS**  
**Members: \$5.00 Non-members: \$10.00**  
 Over light refreshments, learn about this comical woodland bird also known as the Timberdoodle. Then venture out with Gerri Griswold in search of this ornithological Holy Grail!



**April 28 Fun Art for Kids with Betsy Rogers-Knox**  
**1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M., A. B. Ceder Room**  
**Members: \$20.00 Non-members: \$30.00**  
 Bring your budding artist to this wonderful watercolor class. Your child will create a simple step by step painting using a variety of techniques. All materials included. Ages 8 - 13.



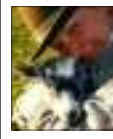
**April 13, 20, 27 Bird Language Club**  
**7:00 A.M., Meet in front of the A. B. Ceder Room .**  
**Per session: Members: \$8.00 Non-members: \$10.00**  
 Observe and identify birds and recognize the baseline of a specific area and what any change may indicate. You will be sitting outdoors very still for 2 hours. Dress for the weather!



**May 4 Iceland's Natural Warriors: Volcanoes**  
**6:30 P.M., A. B. Ceder Room**  
**Members: \$15.00 Non-members: \$20.00**  
 Tom Alena displays samples of volcanic ash from three separate eruptions along with video footage. You'll feel like a volcanologist! Pot Luck Supper BYOB & your own place setting!



**April 13 Soup's On!: A Benefit for Our Braille Trail**  
**7:00 P.M., A. B. Ceder Room**  
**Members: \$20.00 Non-members: \$25.00**  
 Only \$450 is needed to complete our Braille Trail project! Choose a bowl. Fill it with a variety of homemade soups. Salad, cheese, and bread, and of course dessert! BYO utensils and cup!



**May 11 Animal Poetry by the Fire with Gerri Griswold**  
**7:00 P.M., Kienholz Fire Pit, There will be PIE!**  
**Members: \$5.00 Non-members: \$10.00**  
 We love poetry and we love it by a fire and we love it even more when it involves animals! Gerri reads poems dedicated to the feathered, furred, slimy, scaled, and everything in between!



**April 27 STINKOLOGY! With Peter and Barbara Rzasa**  
**11:00 A.M., Meet in front of the A. B. Ceder Room**  
**Members: \$10.00 Non-members: \$15.00**  
 Many hikers are aware of the sights and sounds around them but what about scents? Become more aware of your environment by experiencing the many fragrances that can be found in our fields and forests.



**May 25 Rodents Rule! Live Animal Presentation!**  
**10:00 A.M., A. B. Ceder Room**  
**Members: \$10.00 Non-members: \$15.00**  
 They get no respect but Teralyn LaChance from the Zoo in Forest Park in Springfield, Massachusetts is determined to change the way you feel about rodents. Wait until you see who she is bringing!!!! We have a gnawing feeling you will love it!



**June 22 High Tea on Chickadee Bridge & BOAT PARADE!!!! (Raindate: June 23)**  
**2:00 P.M., Chickadee Bridge, Boat Registration (includes tea): \$20.00 High Tea: \$5.00 payable that day but you must pre register!**  
 This whimsical event celebrates the 100th Anniversary of the White Memorial Foundation! Gussy yourself up and your canoe or kayak and head down the Bantam River to Chickadee Bridge where our parade marshals will judge entries, award prizes, followed by a smashing high tea with scones, clotted cream, strawberries, cucumber sandwiches, and more in honor of the greatest conservationists in the history of our state!

Clip & Mail

_____ Woodcock Cocktail Party.....	Member: \$5.00	Non member: \$10.00
_____ Bird Language Club April 13__ April 20__ April 27__	Member: \$8.00	Non member: \$10.00
_____ Soup's On! Benefit for the Braille Trail .....	Member: \$20.00	Non member: \$25.00
_____ STINKOLOGY!.....	Member: \$10.00	Non member: \$15.00
_____ Fun Art for Kids.....	Member: \$20.00	Non member: \$30.00
_____ Iceland's Volcanoes .....	Member: \$15.00	Non member: \$20.00
_____ Animal Poetry by the Fire.....	Member: \$5.00	Non member: \$10.00
_____ Rodents Rule! .....	Members: \$10.00	Non member: \$15.00
_____ High Tea & Boat Parade.....	Boat Registration: \$20.00	

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle one:    member    non-member

Payment enclosed: Program fee: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Membership fee: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Become a member of the White Memorial Conservation Center and take advantage of the member discount, along with free admission to the Nature Museum, a discount in the Gift Shop, and receipt of the quarterly newsletter and calendar of events. Your tax-deductible fee will help sponsor programs like these. A family membership is \$50.00 per year and individual is \$35.00.

Make check payable to:  
 WMCC and mail to:  
 P.O. Box 368  
 Litchfield, CT 06759

## COMMUNITY EDUCATION DAY IS MAY 18TH!

An exciting environmental education collaborative between White Memorial, Education Connection in Litchfield, and the Schaghticoke Middle School in New Milford is in the works. The primary focus of the collaboration is to connect middle school students with an outdoor experience at a nature center and at the same time implement one strategy of the newly adopted Connecticut Environmental Literacy Plan. A multi-faceted program involving outreach activities at the school as well as a field trip to White Memorial will be high-lighted by a grand finale scheduled for Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the form of a Community Education Day. This is an open house day free to the public in which the students will be conducting activities and sharing their knowledge. They will be

operating various stations that participants may visit and rotate through. Presentations at the stations will include information about seed germination and plant growth that they learned while growing plants for a school garden beautification project, museum scavenger hunts, nature walks around the pond, wildlife BINGO games, and reptile and amphibian programs, and coverboard projects.

All are invited to participate in this day at no cost. The Conservation Center Museum will be open with no admissions charge. Come and join the fun...and find out if you are smarter than a 7<sup>th</sup> grader!



**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

**32ND ANNUAL  
FAMILY NATURE DAY  
SEPTEMBER 28, 2013**

FEATURING

**BRIAN BRADLEY: SKY HUNTERS IN FLIGHT**

**RIVERSIDE REPTILES**

**THE BAT LADY**

**SKITUR THE NORTH AMERICAN PORCUPINE**

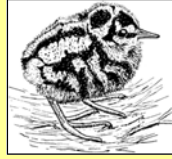
**ATKA THE WOLF**

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Make a Difference .....3

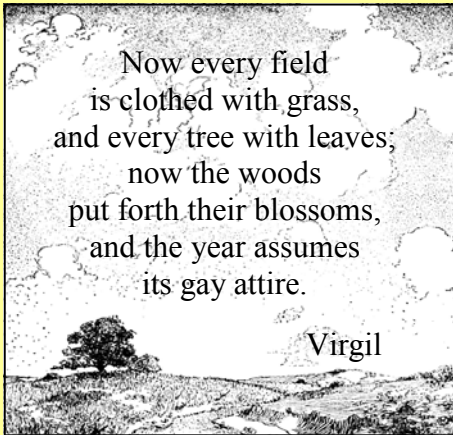
Volunteer Spotlight.....3

Before the Whites.....4

Research Forum.....5

Calendar of Events.....6

Workshops.....7



Now every field  
is clothed with grass,  
and every tree with leaves;  
now the woods  
put forth their blossoms,  
and the year assumes  
its gay attire.

Virgil

**NORTHWEST  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**EARTH DAY  
NATIVE PLANT SALE**

**APRIL 19—21, 2013  
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